

Listing Of The Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Original) A steel for a crude oil tank characterized by containing, in mass, 0.001 to 0.2% C, 0.01 to 2.5% Si, 0.1 to 2% Mn, 0.03% or less P, 0.007% or less S, 0.01 to 1.5% Cu, 0.001 to 0.3% Al, 0.001 to 0.01% N and one or both of 0.01 to 0.2% Mo and 0.01 to 0.5% W, with the balance consisting of Fe and unavoidable impurities.

2. (Original) A steel for a crude oil tank according to claim 1, characterized by satisfying the following expression, in mass %;

$$\text{Solute Mo} + \text{Solute W} \geq 0.005\%.$$

3. (Previously Presented) A steel for a crude oil tank according to claim 1, characterized in that the carbon equivalent (Ceq.), in mass %, defined by the equation (1) is 0.4% or less;

$$\text{Ceq.} = \text{C} + \text{Mn}/6 + (\text{Cu} + \text{Ni})/15 + (\text{Cr} + \text{Mo} + \text{W} + \text{V})/5 \quad (1).$$

4. (Currently Amended) A steel for a crude oil tank according to ~~claim 1~~ any one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the Cr content is less than 0.1 mass %.

5. (Currently Amended) A steel for a crude oil tank according to ~~claim 1~~ any one of claims 1 to 3, characterized by further containing, in mass, 0.1 to 3% Ni and/or 0.1 to 3% Co.

6. (Currently Amended) A steel for a crude oil tank according to ~~claim 1~~ any one of claims 1 to 3, characterized by further containing, in mass, one or more of 0.01 to 0.3% Sb, 0.01 to 0.3% Sn, 0.01 to 0.3% Pb, 0.01 to 0.3% As and 0.01 to 0.3% Bi.

7. (Currently Amended) A steel for a crude oil tank according to ~~claim 1~~ any one of claims 1 to 3, characterized

by further containing, in mass, one or more of 0.002 to 0.2% Nb, 0.005 to 0.5% V, 0.002 to 0.2% Ti, 0.005 to 0.5% Ta, 0.005 to 0.5% Zr and 0.0002 to 0.005% B.

8. (Currently Amended) A steel for a crude oil tank according to ~~claim 1~~ any one of claims 1 to 3, characterized by further containing, in mass, one or more of 0.0001 to 0.01% Mg, 0.0005 to 0.01% Ca, 0.0001 to 0.1% Y, 0.005 to 0.1% La and 0.005 to 0.1% Ce.

9. (Previously Presented) A steel for a crude oil tank according to claim 1, characterized in that the area percentage of microscopic segregation portions where the Mn concentration is 1.2 times or more the average Mn concentration in the steel is 10% or less.

10. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a steel for a crude oil tank, characterized in that, in the event of applying accelerated cooling after hot rolling a slab containing components according to claim 1, the average cooling rate of said accelerated cooling is in the range from 5 to 100°C/sec., the accelerated cooling end temperature is in the range from 600°C to 300°C, and the cooling rate in the temperature range from said accelerated cooling end temperature to 100°C is in the range from 0.1 to 4°C/sec.

11. (Original) A method for producing a steel for a crude oil tank characterized by applying tempering or annealing at 500°C or lower to a steel produced by the method according to claim 10.

12. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a steel for a crude oil tank, characterized in that, in the event of applying normalizing after hot rolling a slab containing components according to claim 1, the heating temperature of said normalizing is in the range from the Ac₃ transformation temperature to 1,000°C and the average cooling rate in the temperature range from 700°C to 300°C is in the range from 0.5 to 4°C/sec.

13. (Original) A method for producing a steel for a crude oil tank characterized by applying tempering or annealing at 500°C or lower to a steel normalized according to claim 12.

14. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a steel for a crude oil tank according to claim 10, characterized by, before hot rolling a slab, applying diffusion heat treatment to said slab at a heating temperature of 1,200 to 1,350°C and for a retention time of 2 to 100 hr.

15. (Previously Presented) A crude oil tank characterized in that the floor plate, deck plate, side walls and structural members thereof are made wholly or partially of a steel for a crude oil tank according to claim 1.

16. (Original) A method for protecting a crude oil tank against corrosion characterized by removing, either mechanically or chemically, hot-rolling scale on the surface of a crude oil tank according to claim 15 and exposing the base steel substrate.

17. (Original) A method for protecting a crude oil tank against corrosion according to claim 16, characterized by forming one or more layers of a coating film 10 µm or more in thickness on the surface after hot-rolling scale is removed mechanically or chemically.

18. (New) A steel for a crude oil tank according to claim 4, characterized by further containing, in mass, 0.1 to 3% Ni and/or 0.1 to 3% Co.

19. (New) A steel for a crude oil tank according to claim 4, characterized by further containing, in mass, one or more of 0.01 to 0.3% Sb, 0.01 to 0.3% Sn, 0.01 to 0.3% Pb, 0.01 to 0.3% As and 0.01 to 0.3% Bi.

20. (New) A steel for a crude oil tank according to claim 5, characterized by further containing, in mass, one or more of 0.01 to 0.3% Sb, 0.01 to 0.3% Sn, 0.01 to 0.3% Pb, 0.01 to 0.3% As and 0.01 to 0.3% Bi.

21. (New) A steel for a crude oil tank according to claim 4, characterized by further containing, in mass, one or more of 0.002 to 0.2% Nb, 0.005 to 0.5% V, 0.002 to 0.2% Ti, 0.005 to 0.5% Ta, 0.005 to 0.5% Zr and 0.0002 to 0.005% B.

22. (New) A steel for a crude oil tank according to claim 5, characterized by further containing, in mass, one or more of 0.002 to 0.2% Nb, 0.005 to 0.5% V, 0.002 to 0.2% Ti, 0.005 to 0.5% Ta, 0.005 to 0.5% Zr and 0.0002 to 0.005% B.

23. (New) A steel for a crude oil tank according to claim 6, characterized by further containing, in mass, one or more of 0.002 to 0.2% Nb, 0.005 to 0.5% V, 0.002 to 0.2% Ti, 0.005 to 0.5% Ta, 0.005 to 0.5% Zr and 0.0002 to 0.005% B.

24. (New) A steel for a crude oil tank according to claim 4, characterized by further containing, in mass, one or more of 0.0001 to 0.01% Mg, 0.0005 to 0.01% Ca, 0.0001 to 0.1% Y, 0.005 to 0.1% La and 0.005 to 0.1% Ce.

25. (New) A steel for a crude oil tank according to claim 5, characterized by further containing, in mass, one or more of 0.0001 to 0.01% Mg, 0.0005 to 0.01% Ca, 0.0001 to 0.1% Y, 0.005 to 0.1% La and 0.005 to 0.1% Ce.

26. (New) A steel for a crude oil tank according to claim 6, characterized by further containing, in mass, one or more of 0.0001 to 0.01% Mg, 0.0005 to 0.01% Ca, 0.0001 to 0.1% Y, 0.005 to 0.1% La and 0.005 to 0.1% Ce.

27. (New) A steel for a crude oil tank according to claim 7, characterized by further containing, in mass, one or more of 0.0001 to 0.01% Mg, 0.0005 to 0.01% Ca, 0.0001 to 0.1% Y, 0.005 to 0.1% La and 0.005 to 0.1% Ce.